



MILITARY SURFACE DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION COMMAND

NEWS RELEASE

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Ensuring that the strength of SDDC is indeed Army Strong

Command Affairs
HQ SDDC

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill., (Feb. 17, 2010) -- The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command is made up of about 4,600 uniformed service members, civilians, local nationals and contractors. But the largest portion is the reserve component from the Deployment Support Command. DSC provides more than 60 percent of the SDDC Team and about 90 percent of the uniformed strength comes from these citizen Soldiers.

Ensuring that the strength of SDDC is indeed Army Strong is a focus for many, and the subject of a detailed set of checks and balances.

Within SDDC, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Training, Readiness and Mobilization (G7) oversees the training management program through policies and procedures, while the DSC manages and executes the training program for all SDDC-aligned reserve units.

“Army Reserve units are managed in the Army Force Generation Cycle, a five-year cycle designed to reconstitute and progressively train units for additional wartime and contingency deployments,” said Col. David Hargrave, director of SDDC G7. “In the final three years of the cycle, key training validates a unit’s preparedness for deployment.”

Ensuring the strength of SDDC is indeed Army Strong and remains a priority for the command and is the subject of a detailed set of checks and balances.

When a unit is selected for mobilization, both SDDC and First Army have validation responsibilities. SDDC is responsible for validating all SDDC-operational requirements. First Army validates the command and control, force protection, and theater specific requirements. Both organizations work together to ensure all mission essential tasks are validated prior to deployment.

During the first two years of ARFORGEN, training is more focused on individual training requirements.

“Soldiers attend the required Military Occupational Specialty qualifying schools and professional development courses such as the Warrior Leader Course and the Captain’s Career Course,” Hargrave said. “In cases where soldiers are up to date on their individual training requirements, they can be scheduled to support other SDDC ongoing missions.”

In the third year of ARFORGEN, units are required to conduct a 14-day Annual Training focusing on their pending mission to deploy. The training is designed to exercise all unit mission essential tasks for the deployment. Monthly Battle Assemblies focus on required individual training.

In the fourth year of the ARFORGEN cycle, Reserve Command units participate in three key events: AT; Battle Command Simulation Training; and SDDC-centric systems training. AT involves units training in a number of exercises planned by SDDC and funded by the U.S. Army Reserve Command. To exercise unit command and control capability, units participate in a BCST exercise. Lastly, SDDC's G7 manages SDDC-centric systems training to ensure units can operate the required SDDC systems.

Finally in year five of the ARFORGEN cycle, units are validated to deploy. Key training events include an SDDC external evaluation during an SDDC/USARC exercise and Mobilization Training sponsored by the Army Reserve. These two events provide the basis for validation by the commanding general of SDDC, and approval for deployment.

SDDC is the Army component of the U.S. Transportation Command and provides common-user ocean terminal, commercial ocean liner services, and traffic management services to deploy, employ, sustain, and redeploy U.S. forces. Qualification of commercial carriers for DOD Freight Traffic Program, both domestically and internationally, is accomplished through the Freight Carrier Registration Program.